

What is Claimed is:

1. An analog input system that uses an analog signal input terminal to convert an analog signal into a digital signal and send the converted digital signal to a host computer via a network, wherein

the analog signal input terminal comprises at least:

an analog signal input unit;

an A/D converter for converting the analog signal into a digital signal;

a network controller for controlling data transmission and reception, to which an Internet protocol (IP) connection is possible;

a terminal-side IP connection establishing unit for establishing two connections, that is, an inbound socket connection and an outbound socket connection, to and from the host computer;

a control signal processing unit for receiving control signals related to at least a start request and a stop request from the host computer; and

a signal transmitting unit for sending digital signals according to the control signals; and wherein

the host computer comprises at least:

a network adapter for controlling data transmission and reception, to which an IP connection is possible;

a host-side IP connection establishing unit for establishing two connections, that is, an inbound socket connection and an outbound socket connection, to and from

the analog signal input terminal;

a control signal processing unit for sending control signals related to at least a start request and a stop request to the analog signal input terminal;

an application processing unit for executing an application and allowing the application to use the said digital signals; and

an IP connection disconnecting unit for disconnecting the inbound socket connection and the outbound socket connection.

2. The analog signal input system according to claim 1, wherein:

the terminal-side IP connection establishing unit in the analog signal input terminal establishes an inbound socket connection to the host computer when the terminal-side IP connection establishing unit detects an outbound socket connection from the host computer; and

the host-side IP connection establishing unit in the host computer establishes an outbound socket connection to the analog signal input terminal.

3. The analog signal input system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the analog signal input terminal is provided with a microphone, an output signal from which is input into the analog signal input unit.

4. The analog signal input system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the network is a wireless communication network, the network controller and network adapter being compatible with the wireless communication network.

5. The analog signal input system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein:
- the network uses the user datagram protocol (UDP) to include an IP packet at the time of the IP connection in a UDP packet; and
 - characteristic information data related to the signal contents of the digital signal retrieved is included in a header field in the UDP protocol for transmission.
6. The analog signal input system according to claim 5, wherein the analog signal is a voice signal, and the characteristic information data is at least any one of a voice level, a sampling rate, and the number of bits per sample.
7. An analog signal output system in which a digital signal is sent from a host computer to an analog signal output terminal through a network and the analog signal output terminal converts the digital signal into an analog signal and then outputs the analog signal, wherein
- the analog signal output terminal comprises at least;
 - a network controller for controlling data transmission and reception, to which an Internet protocol (IP) connection is possible;
 - a terminal-side IP connection establishing unit for establishing two connections, that is, an inbound socket connection and an outbound socket connection, to and from the host computer;
 - a control signal processing unit for receiving control signals related to at least a start request and a stop request from the host computer;
 - a signal receiving unit for receiving digital signals according to the control signals;

a D/A converter for converting the digital signals into analog signals; and
an output unit for outputting the analog signals; and wherein
the host computer comprises at least:
a network adapter for controlling data transmission and reception, an IP
connection to which is possible;
a host-side IP connection establishing unit for establishing two connections,
that is, an inbound socket connection and an outbound socket connection, to and from
the analog signal output terminal;
a control signal processing unit for sending control signals related to at least a
start request and a stop request to the analog signal output terminal;
an application processing unit for executing an application and causing the
application to generate a digital signal;
a signal transmitting unit for sending the generated digital signal; and
an IP connection disconnecting unit for disconnecting the inbound socket
connection and the outbound socket connection.

8. The analog signal output system according to claim 7, wherein:

the terminal-side IP connection establishing unit in the analog signal output
terminal establishes an inbound socket connection to the host computer when an
outbound socket connection from the host computer is detected; and

the host-side IP connection establishing unit in the host computer establishes an
outbound socket connection to the analog signal output terminal.

9. The analog signal output system according to claim 7 or 8, wherein:

the analog signal output terminal has a buffer area and a data requesting unit, the data requesting unit sending a data transmission request signal according to a storage capacity of the buffer area; and

the signal transmitting unit in the host computer sends a digital signal according to the transmission request signal.

10. The analog signal output system according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein a speaker is provided on the analog signal output terminal, an output signal from the output unit being generated as voice from the speaker,

11. The analog signal output system according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the network is a wireless communication network, the controller and network adapter being compatible with the wireless communication network.

12. The analog signal output system according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein:

the network uses the user datagram protocol (UDP) to include an IP packet at the time of the IP connection in a UDP packet; and

characteristic information data related to the signal contents of the digital signal retrieved is included in a header field in the UDP protocol for transmission.

13. The analog signal output system according to claim 12, the analog signal is a voice signal, and the characteristic information data is at least any one of a voice level, a sampling rate, and the number of bits per sample.

14. The analog signal output system according to any one of claims 7 to 13, wherein the analog signal output terminal has a buffer with a prescribed capacity, which is used to store digital signals received by the signal receiving unit; the analog signal output terminal also has at least a monitoring unit for monitoring an amount of digital signals stored in the buffer or a remaining capacity of the buffer and a synchronization control unit for changing a sampling clock in the D/A converter according to either the amount of digital signals stored or the remaining capacity; analog signals output by the output unit are synchronized.

15. The analog signal output system according to claim 14, wherein the analog signal output system has two or more analog signal output terminals for one host computer; two or more types of voice data, including right and left stereo channel voice data, are output to each analog signal output terminal, and voice outputs from the two or more analog signal output terminals are mutually synchronized by a function of the synchronization control unit.

16. The analog signal output system according to any one of claims 7 to 15, wherein a remote operation terminal for remotely operating an output mode from the analog signal output terminal is provided on the network; the host computer and remote operation terminal are interconnected through an operation socket that is different from the two connections, that is, the inbound socket connection and outbound socket connection; when the remote operation terminal sends a remote operation signal to the host computer, the network adapter in the host computer receives the remote operation signal and then the control signal processing unit sends a control signal according to the

remote operation signal.